

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 SAM-01 SAB-01 /065 W
----- 025479

P R 280545Z SEP 75 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3374

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1946

FOR RADM BIGLEY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, TC
SUBJ: OJT NAVAL TRAINING

REF: (A) COMIDEASTFOR 140505Z SEP 75 (B) ABU DHABI 1851
170555Z SEP 75 (C) STATE 229385 252221Z SEP 75

1. RE YOUR PROPOSED VISIT IN NOVEMBER WISH TO RECONFIRM WELCOME
AS PER REF B. WHILE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE MODEST, HOPE YOU WILL
ACCEPT INVITATION BE OUR GUEST AT RESIDENCE DURING STAY. IS THERE
A MRS. BIGLEY AND WOULD SHE BE COMING WITH YOU?

2. RE OJT, I AM MOST PLEASED TO HAVE DEPT STATE APPROVAL (REF C)
OF THIS CONCEPT AND WELCOME YOUR PROPOSAL TO MOVE AHEAD FORTHWITH.
LIKEWISE YOUR SUGGESTION OF STARTING ON SMALL, RELATIVELY SIMPLE
SCALE STRIKES US AS SOUND, AND WE WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO WITH
RECENTLY COMMISSIONED FAST FRIGATE SUCH AS USS VALDEZ.
AS YET, OF COURSE, WE HAVE NOT APPROACHED ABU DHABI DEFENSE
FORCE AND/OR ITS SEA WING REGARDING THIS CONCEPT AND IT IS VERY
DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE IN ADVANCE REACTION WE LIKELY TO GET. THIS
ALL THE MORE TRUE IN THAT SEA WING COMMANDER HAS CHANGED SINCE
LAST OCTOBER, WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICER TAKING OVER FROM BRITISHER
WHO WAS IN CHARGE DURING LAST CMEF VISIT. LESSER, BUT STILL
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REAL, CONCERN IS SOMEWHAT SENSITIVE NATURE OF INTRA-EMIRATE

RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN UAE. VALDEZ VISIT, OF COURSE, INTENDED PUT FOCUS ON SHARJAH. WE WOULD WISH TO EXPLORE CAREFULLY WHETHER INTRODUCING SIGNIFICANT INVOLVEMENT FROM ANOTHER-- AND MORE POWERFUL--EMIRATE WOULD PUT SHARJAH NOSES OUT OF JOINT.

3. NEITHER PROBLEM STRIKES AS NECESSARILY INSURMOUNTABLE. I WOULD WELCOME CHANCE TO PUT PROPOSAL BEFORE ADDF OFFICIALS AND OTHERS HERE AND CAN OBVIOUSLY SAY IT IS SUGGESTION WE MAKING STRICTLY AS BEING IN THEIR POSSIBLE INTEREST. AS FOR THE SHARJAH PROBLEM WE HAVE TWO QUESTIONS. FIRST, HOW MANY OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN FROM THE SEA WING DO YOU ENVISAGE TAKING PART IN THIS FIRST EXERCISE? WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO REDUCE IT TO POINT THAT IMPACT IS LOST, IF IT WAS ALWAYS INTENDED THAT NUMBERS BE SMALL, THEN VISABILITY OF THIS "INTRUSION" INTO WHAT IS BASICALLY SHARJAH EXERCISE WOULD BE REDUCED AND MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE. SECOND, IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF VALDEZ PICKING UP SEA WING CONTINGENT ON WAY TO SHARJAH AND POSSIBLY DIS-EMBARKING THEM ONTO SEA WING PATROL CRAFT AS ENVISAGED IN YOUR SCENARIO BEFORE GETTING TO THAT PORT? WE ARE DEFINITELY NOT SUGGESTION AN OFFICIAL VISIT, COMPLETE WITH CEREMONY, TO ABU DHABI SINCE WE RECOGNIZE VALDEZ WOULD NOT HAVE TIME FOR THIS. BUT SINCE, AS WE NOTE, VALDEZ WILL BE COMING FROM BAHRAIN SOME KIND OF OPERATIONAL STOP FOR SOLE PURPOSE OF PICKING UP OJT CONTINGENT STRIKES US AS POSSIBILITY. THIS COULD PRESUMABLY ELIMINATE SHARJAH PROBLEM (IF ONE EXISTS) ALTOGETHER.

4. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR COMMENTS ON ABOVE AND AS SOON AS RECEIVED WILL BEGIN TEST WATERS HERE. REGARDLESS OF RESULTS ON THIS OCCASION, WE WELCOME YOUR INTEREST IN OJT POSSIBILITY HERE.
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